



*Flathead Conservation District*  
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**CALL TO ORDER & ATTENDANCE:** Secretary/Treasurer, Camisha Sawtelle called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. in the conference room.

**Board members present:** Camisha Sawtelle, Secretary/Treasurer; Dean Sirucek, Supervisor; Mark Siderius, Supervisor; Verdell Jackson, Supervisor being a quorum of the Board.

**Board members not in attendance:** Ronald Buentemeier, Chairman; John Ellis, Supervisor; Pete Woll, Vice Chairman. Absences are excused.

Also in attendance were: Valerie Kurth and Ginger Kauffman, FCD staff; Sarah Bowman, Big Sky Watershed Corps and FCD; Angel Rosario, NRCS; Ada Montague, DNRC; Claire Gutschenritter, Helena Flats School teacher; Abby Fritz, Helena Flats School student.

**MINUTES:** Dean Sirucek made a motion “to approve the minutes of the May 9, 2016, 310-Stream Permit meeting as presented.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

1. May 18, 2016 issue of *The Montana Conservationist*
2. The *DNRC Stream & Wetland Restoration Water Right Guidance* document is now available on the DNRC Water Rights webpage.
3. Letter of support from John Wheaton, MT Bureau of Mines and Geology, for the Krause Creek restoration grant application.
4. May 15, 2016 issue of *NACD Forestry Notes*
5. USFS call for Forestry Legacy Program forest conservation proposals for the federal 2018 funding cycle. Contact Rick Northrup, MFWP, 406-444-5633.
6. NACD request for proposals for urban agriculture conservation technical assistance. Contact Debra Bogar, NACD, [deb-bogar@nacdn.org](mailto:deb-bogar@nacdn.org).
7. Flathead Area FireSafe Council open house, Tuesday, May 24, 3:00 – 7:00 P.M., Flathead National Forest office, 60 Wolfpack Way, Kalispell. For information contact Ali Evans 751-2270.
8. DEQ hosted two public meetings, May 17-18, on the Mussel shell Watershed Water Quality Planning Project. For information contact Katie Makarowski 406-444-3507.
9. Copy of Floodplain Development permit issued to City of Kalispell on Stillwater River for an emergency generator at a city well site serving the city water system.



**FINANCIAL:** The following bills were reviewed:

1. CenturyLink \$254.74
2. Holly McKenzie \$100.00
3. James A. Slack, Inc. \$3275.00
4. Montana Natural Resources Youth Camp \$150.00
5. Sarah Bowman \$90.72
6. VISA \$1640.97
7. Health Care Service Corp \$2,059.92
8. MSU \$1,000.00

Mark Siderius made a motion “to approve the bills as presented.” Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** No one was present to comment on items not on the agenda.

**EDUCATION GRANT REQUEST:** Helena Flats School Teacher Claire Gutschenritter and student Abby Fritz made a request to the board for funding for items related to the Helena Flats School Garden and Outdoor Learning Space.

**CLARK FORK/KOOTENAI BASINS & GOV. DROUGHT MGMT TASK FORCE:** Ada Montague stated that, as the DNRC Water Resource Planner for the Clark Fork and Kootenai basins, her main tasks are to implement the State Water Plan and provide water supply and water supply outlook information to the Governor’s Drought Management Task Fork. Ada noted she will also be working with the Clark Force Task Force (CFTF) and DNRC. Discussion held. Supervisors stated Ada may also want to contact the Flathead Basin Commission and Flathead River Commission.

### **310**

**HEBARD, FL2016027C, Bootjack Creek, complaint (5/9 phone poll):** Discussion held. Verdell Jackson made a motion “to approve the 5/9/2016 phone poll to send the standard complaint letter to the landowner.” Mark Siderius seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**SOURCEBOOK PRINTING COSTS:** Valerie Kurth updated the board on need and presented preliminary costs for re-printing the Sourcebook. Discussion held. The board asked that Lori Curtis bring further information to the June business meeting.

**OFFICE LEASE:** Discussion held. Mark Siderius made a motion “to approve the Office Lease Agreement with Mountain States Leasing for the term of 7/14/2016 - 7/13/2021.” Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**310 ADMINISTRATIVE GR CDA-16-1752:** Discussion held. Mark Siderius made a motion “to approve purchasing a file cabinet, table throw and supplies for 310 use.” Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion carried unanimously.



**WATERSHED RESTORATION PLANNING MOU/SWCDM:** Discussion held. Mark Siderius made a motion “to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Montana (SWCDM) and FCD.” Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**JOB DESCRIPTIONS:** Discussion held. Mark Siderius made a motion “to approve the job descriptions drafted by staff and the personnel committee with the changes discussed at this meeting.” Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**HASKILL BASIN WATERSHED COUNCIL (HBWC) BOARD APPOINTMENTS:** Discussion held. Mark Siderius made a motion “to appoint John Phelps, Marcia Van Wye and Steve Bryson to the HBWC board.” Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**COST-SHARE (Sibert):** Discussion held. Dean Sirucek made a motion “to approve the Sibert cost-share in the amount of \$371.31.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**BIG SKY WATERSHED CORPS (BSWC) MILEAGE:** Discussion held. Dean Sirucek made a motion “to cover all of Sarah Bowman’s CD related mileage, and to seek reimbursement from SWCDM for all Watershed Restoration Plan (WRP) related mileage at the current rate.” Mark Siderius seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**BSWG WRP GR #WMG-16-0001(Corrected Invoice):** Discussion held. Mark Siderius made a motion “to approve the corrected invoice for the BSWC in the amount of \$4500.00 and submit to DNRC for payment.” Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**KRAUSE CREEK GR #RPG-16-0464 (Invoice):** Discussion held. Dean Sirucek made a motion “to approve Confluence Consulting’s invoice in the amount of \$24,531.45 and submit to DNRC for payment.” Mark Siderius seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**BUDGET:** The April End of Month report was reviewed with the board. Discussion held. Mark Siderius made a motion “to approve the April End of Month budget report.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.



## **REPORTS**

**NRCS REPORT:** Angél Rosario, NRCS, reported:

### ***EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentive Program)***

- Follow Up Visits and Practice Certifications
- 12 Applications for 2016 Funding (\$350,000) – Two Approved

### ***ACEP (Agriculture Conservation Easement Program)***

- Education & Outreach Workshop on August 11

### ***CSP (Conservation Stewardship Program)***

- New Sign up – 3 Applications

### ***Other***

- Tree Planting Jobs
- Forestry Expo
- Building Lease Renewal
- Snow Report

**RESOURCE CONSERVATIONIST REPORT:** Valerie Kurth reported:

***Cost-Share Program:*** 2015-16 Cycle: Three of the five projects have been completed and paid. Onsite visits will be scheduled for the two remaining projects during the week of June 6<sup>th</sup>. 2016-17 Cycle: One new cost-share application has been received to date.

### ***District Office and Outreach***

1. The May advertisements promoted livestock management and education grants.
2. Pete Woll, Camisha Sawtelle, and I met with Caitlin Overland, Deputy County Attorney, on May 5, 2016 regarding the Staloway complaints. I continue to facilitate communication among DNRC, Don McIntyre, Caitlin Overland and FCD.
3. The office lease has been approved by Tim Birk and the Flathead County Attorney's office.
4. I reviewed the Whitefish Lake Institute's DNRC Renewable Resource Grant application for the Whitefish Water Treatment Plant and Resource Optimization project, which FCD is sponsoring.
5. I submitted FCD's document of examples of difficulties with Floodplain Development Permits to Elena Evans for the Montana Association of Conservation Districts Water Committee meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup>.
6. I drafted a thank you letter to James Rose and John Wheaton, Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, for their recent presentations.
7. I helped the Whitefish Lake Institute with their wetland education program on May 19<sup>th</sup>.



### ***Family Forestry Expo***

Expo was held on May 2-7, 2016 at the Trumbull Creek Experimental Forest. A total of 794 5<sup>th</sup> graders attended the Riparian Station. John Ellis, Dean Sirucek, Ronald Buentemeier, Camisha Sawtelle, and Pete Woll (FCD Supervisors), Marlene Tidwell (Farm Service Agency), Angel Rosario, Jessica Ressel (NRCS), Sarah Bowman (FCD/BSWC), Kaylee Woll (volunteer), and I helped with the station. I attended the follow-up Expo meeting on May 17<sup>th</sup>, where an evaluation summary was distributed. The feedback from both guides and teachers was very positive, both for our station and the overall event.

### ***Krause Creek***

The consultants finalized the technical report on May 12, 2016. I completed and submitted the DNRC Renewable Resource Grant application with substantial help from the consultants and Camisha Sawtelle. The application was supported with five letters of support (Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, U.S. Forest Service, the landowners, John Wheaton and James Rose from Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, and a former employee of The Nature Conservancy who worked on the conservation easement on that property).

### ***Sourcebook Curriculum Project***

The second Educators' Guide workshop was held on May 14<sup>th</sup> at the Flathead Lake Biological Station. Lori Curtis and I handled all of the workshop logistics. Eight educators attended the workshop, including the Educational Liaison for FLBS, Monica Elser, and several teachers who had tested some of the curriculum in their classes. Lori Curtis (Whitefish Lake Institute), Hilary Devlin (Flathead Lakers), and I attended, and Rose Vallor and Michael Brody, from Montana State University, led the workshop. We received input from educators on how to improve the Guide, and we discussed strategies for implementation.

### ***Watershed Restoration Plan (WRP)/Big Sky Watershed Corps (BSWC)***

1. Training - Sarah Bowman attended BSWC technical skills training in Bozeman from April 26-29<sup>th</sup>.
2. TMDL - Sarah continues taking flow measurements on Ashley Creek (Ashley Lake outlet) every 2 weeks.
3. Outreach - Sarah Bowman and I attended the Haskill Basin Watershed Council meeting on May 17<sup>th</sup> to tell them about the WRP and solicit input. Sarah also met with Bob Storer on May 13<sup>th</sup> to tell him about the WRP effort.
4. Development – Sarah met with Eric Trum (DEQ) on April 25<sup>th</sup> to provide a status update and ask questions. She continues to work on drafting the WRP, including ideas for public outreach.
5. Education – Sarah helped the Whitefish Lake Institute with their wetland education program on May 20<sup>th</sup>.
6. Other – Sarah accompanied John Ellis and Kenny Breidinger on several 310 onsite visits on May 17<sup>th</sup>.



**FLATHEAD BASIN COMMISSION REPORT:** The next meeting is June 15, Lone Pine State Park, Kalispell.

**FLATHEAD COUNTY PLANNING BOARD:** Dean Sirucek reported the May 11<sup>th</sup> meeting included a request for a guest cabin, a zoning change request, and updates to Lakeshore regulations – all went to the County Commissioners with positive recommendations.

**MACD REPORT:** No report.

**FLATHEAD RIVER COMMISSION (FRC):** Mark Siderius reported the May 16<sup>th</sup> meeting included discussion regarding invitation to participate in Energy Keepers Lake Level monthly meeting conference calls, and Flathead County Floodplains regulations. Mark noted Christina Shroeder (Army Corps of Engineers) will attend the next FRC meeting.

**HASKILL BASIN WATERSHED COUNCIL:** Valerie Kurth reported the May 17<sup>th</sup> meeting included discussion regarding board member terms and bylaws, DNRC grant application for Whitefish Water Treatment Optimization project, municipal watershed fuels reduction project, Forest Plan Revision update, and replacement of culvert on Haskill Basin Road. Sarah Bowman gave a presentation on the Watershed Restoration Planning project, and Valerie spoke on the recent Deep Aquifer presentation. Next meeting is June 14.

**CLARK FORK TASK FORCE:** No report.

**SOURCEBOOK CURRICULUM PROJECT:** Lori Curtis submitted the following report:

**Project Status:**

**PHASE V ACTIVITIES**

**1) WORKSHOP**

- a. The Workshop went well, though there were fewer attendees than Valerie Kurth and I had hoped for. The new Education Liaison for the Flathead Lake Biological Station attended and participated. We believe that once the project is publicly rolled out, participation will increase. We have learned from participants that simple implementation of activities, as well as direct relevance in meeting current curriculum requirements are both vital to teachers' use of the Guide.
- b. A CORE Watershed Education Committee meeting is being scheduled in June to work through project "launch" plans.



**MATTERS OF THE BOARD/STAFF**

- 310 files
- MACD Convention
- Forest Service maps and Road Maps booklets

The next 310-Stream Permit meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 13, 2016, 7:00 P.M. in the conference room of the USDA building at 133 Interstate Lane, Kalispell, MT.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Verdell Jackson made a motion “to adjourn.” Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion carried unanimously. As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:31 P.M.

Submitted By: Ginger Kauffman, Administrator

*Minutes approved by FCD Board motion made on:*

<u>6/13/2016</u>	<u>Ronald Buentemeier</u>	<u>Chairman</u>
(Date)	(Signature)	(Title - Chairman, Vice-Chairman, etc.)

